



# *Milwaukee County*

## Board of Supervisors

November 9, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester 414/278-4051 [harold.mester@milwcnty.com](mailto:harold.mester@milwcnty.com)

Or Terry Cooley 414/278-4994 [tcooley@milwcnty.com](mailto:tcooley@milwcnty.com)

### **BOARD PROTECTS SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS**

*AODA, 2-1-1 line, disability assistance and programs for children all deserve funding*

**Milwaukee, WI** – The Milwaukee County Board made the preservation of social services one of its top priorities in the 2008 County Budget adopted last Monday.

Supervisors voted unanimously to restore funding for the Interim Disability Assistance Program (IDAP). “We’re dedicating money to help those who are still waiting for help from Social Security,” said Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, Chairperson of the Board’s Health and Human Needs Committee. “The average wait is 22 months.”

The Board was also united in helping children in Milwaukee County choose the right path. A total of \$150,000 was allocated for the Safe Alternatives for Youth (SAY) program. Since it was created by Board Chairman Lee Holloway in 2003, SAY has distributed small grants for educational, cultural, recreational and other activities designed to enhance the life experiences of disadvantaged youth. So far, more than 80 mini-grants have impacted the lives of almost 3,000 young people in Milwaukee County.

Funding for the Youth Sports Authority, eliminated in the County Executive’s proposal, was restored and increased to help more children. “Through this prevention program, we help disadvantaged and low-income young people become productive members of our society through sports,” said Supervisor Roger Quindel, a founder of the program. “We give them an opportunity to have a much more positive outlook on life.” Supervisor Toni M. Clark added, “If just two young people are prevented from ending up in the juvenile correctional system, our \$200,000 investment in the Youth Sports Authority will pay for itself.” The State of Wisconsin charges Milwaukee County almost \$100,000 to send one juvenile to a correctional institution for one year.

Restored funding for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) prevention services means the Behavioral Health Division can continue its efforts to reduce substance abuse in our community.

Supervisor Coggs-Jones said, “It’s much less expensive to spend money on prevention than to spend it on intervention and treatment. We’re saving tax dollars this way.” Milwaukee County faces decreased Federal Access to Recovery funding for the program.

The Board also restored funding for the 2-1-1 hotline that was cut in the County Executive’s budget. It’s an important phone number that helps County residents find non-life threatening emergency services, such as food pantries, housing, drug and alcohol treatment, child care, and help with parenting and domestic violence prevention.

*The County Board will consider any vetoes from the County Executive in reference to the 2008 County Budget on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.*